

GEORGE FRANCIS.

JANUARY 13, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9942.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9942) granting a pension to George Francis, respectfully report as follows:

Hiram Francis, brother of this soldier, enlisted for three years in Company K, Ninety-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, under the name Harman Francis, served out his term, reenlisted, and went home with his regiment on veteran furlough. When the regiment returned to the front Hiram did not go back, but persuaded his brother George, this claimant, to take his place, which he did with the full knowledge and consent of his officers, served out the term, and was honorably discharged under the name of Harmon Francis. He received an injury to the right shoulder in the mine explosion at Petersburg while strictly in the line of his duty, and applied for and was granted a pension under the name of Harmon, which pension he continued to draw until after the death of Harmon, when the widow of the latter applied and the facts set forth herein were learned, and the pension which George was drawing under the name of Harmon was stopped, he having technically no legal title, he never having regularly enlisted in the United States military service.

He did, however, enter the service honorably, did render about seventeen months' honorable service, became disabled in line of duty, and was honorably discharged.

The Commissioner of Pensions referred the case to this committee with a letter in which he says:

It is believed that this is such a claim as is contemplated by the joint resolution of Congress adopted May 29, 1830, and for that reason the papers are referred with the recommendation that the same be considered by your honorable committee, with a view to granting relief to George Francis * * * by special act of Congress.

The committee have considered the facts and the recommendation of the Commissioner of Pensions, and unanimously and earnestly recommend the passage of the bill.